

MODERN METHODS OF FEEDING IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD.

By Donald Paterson, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., and George Newns, M.D., F.R.C.P. Tenth Edition. (Pp. ix + 188; figs. 15. 15s.) London : Constable, 1956.

THE most recent edition of this book presents a clear picture of orthodox British practice in the feeding of young children. The section on breast feeding is excellent and incorporates several recent advances in the physiology and management of lactation. Infants who have the good fortune to be artificially fed on the lines put forward by the authors should never go hungry, for Drs. Paterson and Newns recommend three ounces of milk per pound body-weight daily against the traditional "two and a half ounces per pound per day" generally thought to be sufficient.

Whilst agreeing that chloramphenicol is often effective in the treatment of "gastro-enteritis," the reviewer feels that some mention should have been made of its potential toxicity to the bone-marrow and liver.

The discussion on wasting in infancy is unfortunate in that it fails to make any reference to important and well-recognised metabolic disorders such as hypercalcaemia and renal acidosis which often masquerade as "feeding problems" with failure to thrive, for which the authors suggest "improving the hygiene and nursing care." In such cases an estimation of the serum calcium and alkali reserve might provide the diagnosis and indicate the correct treatment.

With the above reservations, this book can be recommended as a helpful guide to all those concerned with the feeding of babies and young children. The type and illustrations are good, there is a complete and accurate index, and by present standards the price is reasonable.

R. D. G. C.

PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE. By Desmond Curran, M.B., F.R.C.P., D.P.M., and Maurice Partridge, M.A., D.M., D.P.M. Fourth Edition. (Pp. viii + 407; figs. 20. 21s.) Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone, 1955.

THE first edition of this book was published in 1943 at a time when physical methods in the treatment of mental illness were coming to the fore and long-established concepts were being re-examined in the light of knowledge gained in the midst of total war.

To the preparation of the fourth edition Dr. Curran brings the authority and experience of those intervening twelve years and his collaborator is a worthy successor to the late Dr. E. Guttmann. The aim, as in earlier editions, is to present the elements of psychiatry to medical students and to the practitioner requiring a concise and up-to-date account of psychological medicine. Wisely, a plethora of technical terms has been avoided and, although the authors do not hesitate to express personal opinions, the subject matter is presented in a balanced and objective manner, the clinical approach predominating.

The book has been extensively revised, the treatment of alcoholism and schizophrenia receiving more attention and the section on psychiatry in war time being omitted.

Most of the illustrations, including examples of schizophrenic drawings, to the uninitiated so very like certain forms of contemporary art, have appeared in earlier editions, but are none the less worth retaining.

This book is what it claims to be, namely, a short Introduction to Psychiatry. Those who require more than that will be disappointed, but no medical student or busy general practitioner should be without it.

J. B. N.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF TUBERCULOSIS AND DISEASE OF THE CHEST.

Vol. 50, No. 1. (Pp. 1-104. 12s. 6d.) London : Baillière, Tindall & Cox, 1956.

WE welcome this Golden Jubilee number. It is a proud record for a specialist journal and the successive editors and the publishers are to be congratulated. The enlarging interest of the journal and the decision in 1943 to include all diseases of the chest was timely, and we hope the journal will continue to survive the hazards of medical publication.

The present number is mainly occupied with "Fifty Years On—Then and Now," and includes a series of articles reviewing progress in these islands and throughout the Commonwealth.